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1972/09/23

TOP SECRET 230145Z SEP 72 SENSITIVE EYES ONLY VIA BUNKER CHANNELS

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

TO: AMBASSADOR BUNKER

CITE: WHS2168

SEPTEMBER 22, 1972

IN CONSONANCE WITH WHITE HOUSE 2165, I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THE POINT MADE IN PARAGRAPH SIX IN WHICH I INDICATED THAT THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT THE SEPTEMBER 26 MEETING COULD BE CARRIED OVER TO A SECOND DAY OF MEETINGS ON SEPTEMBER 27. YOU SHOULD BRING THIS TO THIEU'S ATTENTION SINCE HE MIGHT READ THE POSSIBLE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCH AN EXTENSION AS AN INDICATION THAT A SETTLEMENT IS ABOUT TO BE CONCLUDED. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT HE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS GREAT COSMETIC VALUE IN A SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY OF MEETINGS SHOULD THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENT ITSELF.

IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT THIEU UNDERSTAND THAT IN THE SENSITIVE PERIOD FACING US, HIS DISCERNIBLE ATTITUDE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD HAVE A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON HANOI'S STRATEGY.

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E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.6
MR96-9, #107; NSC letter 12/26/96
By lut NARA, Date 1/14/97

IF THIEU IS GENUINELY WORRIED THAT WE MIGHT SETTLE PREMATURELY, HE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THE APPEARANCE OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND SAIGON COULD HAVE THE PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCE OF INFLUENCING HANOI TOWARD A RAPID SETTLEMENT IN THE SECRET TALKS SO AS TO EXPLOIT WHAT THEY MIGHT PERCEIVE AS A SPLIT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GVN AND THE RESULTING POLITICAL DISARRAY IN SAIGON. THIS WOULD DISRUPT THE CAREFULLY MEASURED PACE WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN. OUR STRATEGY AT THIS POINT IS TO FORCE FURTHER MOVEMENT IN HANOI'S POSITION AND MAINTAIN THE APPEARANCE OF CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITY IN PARIS WHILE CONTINUING TO APPLY MAXIMUM MILITARY PRESSURE. THEREFORE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIEU STAY CLOSE TO US SO THAT WE DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY TO HANOI.

WARM REGARDS.

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